

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05

L-03 /087 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RRDELABARRE:VSS

APPROVED BY EUR/SE:WLEAGELTON

EB/OFPP/PO:FSPILLMAN (INFO)

----- 050402

P 101950Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, TU

SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL GRAIN DISPUTE

REF: STATE 108964

1. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION MAY 10, SORENSEN CHARACTERIZED HIS MAY 7 CALL ON AMBASSADOR ESENBEL AS FRIENDLY AND HOPEFULLY USEFUL. SORENSEN SAID HE MADE CLEAR TO ESENBEL THAT CONTINENTAL WAS INTERESTED IN AN AMICABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE SETTLEMENT AND THAT GOT DEFAULT ON THE CONTRACT COULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS UNDER US LEGISLATION AND WITH CONGRESS.

2. ESENBEL, ALREADY AWARE OF SORENSEN'S INTENTION TO SEE PRIME MINISTER, ENCOURAGED SORENSEN TO MAKE ANKARA TRIP AS PLANNED. HOWEVER, HE TOOK POSITION THAT DISPUTE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PURELY A COMMERCIAL MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AT A LOWER THAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL. ESENBEL MAINTAINED THAT TOPRAK SHOULD NOT HAVE CONTRACTED FOR GRAIN SO FAR IN ADVANCE OF DELIVERY DATE BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TOPRAK WAS A GOT AGENCY AND IN DEFAULT ON THE CONTRACT. ESENBEL SAID HE WOULD REPORT MEETING TO ANKARA.

3. WE HOPE THAT FLURRY OF RECENT TURKISH PRESS STORIES ON CONTINENTAL HAS SUFFICIENTLY ABATED TO ALLOW EMBASSY TO SEEK APPOINTMENT FOR SORENSEN AND FOLCK WITH PRIME MINISTER.

KISSINGER

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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